

## REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 19 and 20 are in the present application. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8 and 20 to further clarify the subject matter of the present application. Claims 17, 18 and 21-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claim 19 is allowed and, as set forth below, have amended Claims 1 and 8 to include the allowable subject matter identified in Claim 19 and have amended Claim 20 to depend from allowed Claim 19.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-18 and 20-30 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parris et al. in view of Berner et al. In response Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 8 to include the allowed subject matter of Claim 19. In particular, Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to set forth that the equation contains a quadratic term for storage time, a quadratic term for storage temperature, and a mixed term for storage time and storage temperature. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited by the Examiner teach or suggest a method of predicting an initial value of an analyte in a sample using such an equation. Therefore, independent Claims 1 and 8 should be in condition for allowance. In addition, dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-16 are also believed to be patentable since they depend from independent Claim 1 or 8, respectively.

Thus, in view of the present Amendment and Remarks, the claims of the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,



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